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PATENT 27
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 09812.0134-00000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
Steffen GUTMANN et al.) Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned
)
Application No.: 10/593,150) Examiner: Not Yet Assigned
)
Filed: September 18, 2006) Confirmation No.: Not Yet Assigned
)
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR)
DETECTING PLANE, AND)
ROBOT APPARATUS HAVING)
APPARATUS FOR DETECTING)
PLANE (AS AMENDED))

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents on the attached listing. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of this application.

Copies of the listed foreign and non-patent literature documents are attached.

Copies of the U.S. patent publications are not enclosed.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

Computer generated English translations of Japanese Patents 3176701, 3330710, and 3278467 and Japanese Published Application No. 05-223549 are enclosed.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: December 8, 2006

By: 

Michael R. Kelly
Reg. No. 33,921

IDS Form PTO/SB/08: Substitute for form 1449b/PTO

Complete if Known

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Application Number 10/593,150

Filing Date September 18, 2006

First Named Inventor GUTTMANN et al.

Art Unit Not Yet Assigned

Examiner Name Not Yet Assigned

Attorney Docket Number 09812.0134-00000

U.S. PATENTS AND PUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Issue or Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US-5,378,969	01-03-1995	Haikawa	
		US-5,402,050	03-28-1995	Ozawa	
		US-5,737,217	04-07-1998	Nishikawa et al.	
		US-6,021,363	02-01-2000	Nishikawa et al.	
		US-			
		US-			

Note: Submission of copies of U.S. Patents and published U.S. Patent Applications is not required.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	Translation ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		JP 05-223549	08-31-1993	Watanabe		Yes
		JP 3176701	04-06-2001	Haikawa		Yes
		JP 3278467	02-15-2002	Ozawa		Yes
		JP 3330710	07-19-2002	Nishikawa et al.		Yes

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶
		J. SKLANSKY; "Measuring Concavity on a Rectangular Mosaic", IEEE Trans. Comput. 21, 1972, pages 1355-1364.	
		A. MELKMAN; "On-Line Construction of the Convex Hull of a Simple Polygon", Information Processing Letters 25; 1987; pages 11-12.	
		U.S. Patent Application No. 10/593,149, filed on September 18, 2006; National Stage of International Publication No. WO 2005/087452	

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.